



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-94-164
Wednesday
24 August 1994

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Burundi

Official Says Talks on Presidency May Not Meet Deadline

EA2308185594 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1100 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the negotiations aimed at setting up the institution of the presidency are continuing at Kigobe Palace in Bujumbura. The proceedings are divided into two commissions: one commission dealing with the re-establishment of the institution of the presidency, and the other with the convention on which the formation of the government is to be based. Mr. (Vincent Ndikumasabo), the Social Democratic Party, PSD, chairman, and member of the commission in charge of the institution of the presidency, briefed us on his commission's achievements so far:

[Begin recording] [(Ndikumasabo)] We are making some progress in our proceedings. I use the expression, some progress, because the present state of our proceedings indicates that we are not likely to meet the 26 August deadline. However, I think that we may end our proceedings successfully with a final decision sometime around 26 August. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified interviewer] When you say that you are making some progress in your proceedings it means that you have achieved an important step. Have you agreed on the name of the future president of the Republic?

[(Ndikumasabo)] No, we have not yet agreed on the name of the person to be appointed president of the Republic by the participants at the negotiating forum. It is difficult to nominate a candidate at this stage, because there are so many other things to be achieved first, especially the convention for the formation of the government, a convention which must precede the appointment of the president of the Republic. [passage omitted] [end recording]

That was (Vincent Ndikumasabo) interviewed by (Domici Kiranvu) and (Gervais Habayeho) of the Swahili [as received] service.

'About 100 Houses' Burn Down in Cibitoke Province

EA2308163094 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1100 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Excerpts] In Cibitoke Province, about 100 houses have been set ablaze in Buganda commune, causing people to flee their homes. Reports also indicate that armed individuals have infiltrated the province. Mr. Neftali Niyibizi, the governor of Cibitoke Province, describes the situation to our colleague (Martin Nzeyimana):

[Begin Niyibizi recording] [passage omitted] We have been experiencing some insecurity lately in some communes of the province. I shall speak more about Buganda Commune, where about 120 houses have been set on fire

in the Gatoke and Kanyange Hills since 16 August. The whole thing started on the nights of 15 and 16 August, when a group of armed criminals attacked houses on Gatoke Hill, Buganda Commune, setting ablaze 17 of them. [passage indistinct] People living on that hill asked us to set up security posts. This was done immediately. But unfortunately, and amazingly, in spite of the presence of the gendarmes on the two hills, 33 more houses were set on fire during the night of 20 to 21 August, on the same hill, by armed individuals. [words indistinct] We went yesterday to the spot and noted that it was truly a very sad scene. We asked people to remain calm, not to take revenge, [words indistinct] to kill. [passage indistinct]

There were no casualties, except for one lady who was shot in the leg, and who is now being treated at (Kaburani) Health Center. [passage omitted] We asked that Rwandan refugees present in [words indistinct] province register themselves quickly, so that we can immediately see, identify, and make a distinction between true refugees and possible infiltrators. On our part, we do not, so far, have any evidence on possible infiltrators. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Congo

Minister Threatens To Arrest Deputies Supporting Militias

AB2308184594 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Brazzaville, Aug 23 (AFP)—Congo's Interior Minister, Martin M'beri, threatened Tuesday [23 August] to arrest deputies who continue backing the various militias spreading "terror and insecurity" throughout the country.

M'beri, speaking before the National Assembly, also accused the opposition of setting up a new militia called the "Sharks" in the port city of Pointe-Noire, the country's second largest town after the capital.

The new militia was allegedly set up by Pointe Noire Mayor Jean-Pierre Thystere Tchikaya, a member of the opposition, shortly before his election in July.

Two other militias operate in Brazzaville, the "Cobras" and the "Ninjas."

"If you sponsor bandits, we will arrest you along with the bandits," M'beri told the deputies.

He added that he did not plan to dissolve a special police force within his ministry, which the opposition has accused of much abuse during clashes between the political parties' various militias that left hundreds dead in 1993.

"We will not dissolve the special corps, because it was created by a legal and legitimate government set up following elections, and the subject is not negotiable," M'beri said.

Rwanda

UNAMIR Spokesman Says Refugees Increasingly Ready for Home

LD2308210694 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Rwanda says it is relieved because the mass exodus to Bukavu has not taken place. Yet it points out that the situation remains extremely volatile and that 40,000 to 50,000 people are still assembled at the border and are ready to cross the bridge.

Having said this, a spokesman for the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda [UNAMIR] expressed his optimism today. He believes that the refugees are not so anxious now and are considering returning to their country. Commander Jean-Guy Plante spoke to Adala Benraad:

[Begin Plante recording] Everything we have seen over the last 48 hours seems to point to the fact that the Rwandans are increasingly ready to return home, not necessarily in the hundreds of thousands and not necessarily in the tens of thousands, but one can gradually see across the country [words indistinct] in the new UN protection zone that, when people see UN soldiers, they ask us whether it is possible for them to go back home and whether we could take them home. This is what we have started doing. The Rwandans have increasing confidence in us, in UNAMIR, in the UN troops.

Although the situation is still fragile, I do believe that the government's efforts and the efforts we have made have borne fruit. [end recording]

Minister Blames French Troops for Destruction of Cyangugu

LD2408083794 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0600 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Text] General Lafourcade, who was the commander of Operation Turquoise, returned to Toulouse yesterday. Not a single French soldier remains in the humanitarian safe zone—there are only African UN soldiers.

The Kigali government is trying to restore some calm and serenity. It promised that there will be no revenge against the Hutus, but it intends to control everything, including the humanitarian safe zone.

[Correspondent] Frederic Barrere met with Jacques Bihozagara, a member of the Rwandan Government, the minister [of state in charge of war reconstruction, refugees, displaced persons, and soldiers demobilization affairs], who has a reputation for being anti-French, as it were. He believes that Operation Turquoise troops did not exactly do a thoroughly good job and that it was time for them to leave:

[Begin Bihozagara recording] We believe that the French pull-out brings, first of all, the difference between us and France to an end. But, of course, it leaves an issue which remains to be tackled. We have noticed that the region of Cyangugu was seriously damaged. Houses were ransacked.

[Barrere] You are blaming the French for pillaging the town, aren't you?

[Bihozagara] That's right, because you know that there was never any fighting in Cyangugu and we were surprised to see that out of all the towns in the country, it suffered the most destruction—while the French were there.

[Barrere] The French left 48 hours ago and there are no RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] soldiers in that safe humanitarian zone. How come?

[Bihozagara] As far as we are concerned, the government has not yet decided to send troops there immediately, but we are certainly going to send some there in due course.

[Barrere] The Kigali Government pledged on 2 August that it will respect the demilitarization of that zone. Does the government still believe this?

[Bihozagara] We never subscribed to the demilitarization of the zone because it is simply incomprehensible. The only thing we agree to is for that zone—which harbored the butchers and the casualties for more than two months—to return to normal life gradually.

[Barrere] When will RPF soldiers move into that zone?

[Bihozagara] There are no longer any Rwandan Patriotic Front soldiers. We have a national army, so they are soldiers belonging to the government army. In other words, they will go there, not to invade, but we shall quite simply go there when we deem it necessary to restore normal administration. [end recording]

Somalia

Aidid Sends Condolence Message to Indian Government

EA2308161094 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Great Somali People in Somali 1100 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The chairman of the United Somali Congress [USC] and the Somali National Alliance [SNA], Mohamed Farah Aidid, speaking on his own behalf, and on behalf of the leadership of SNA and its supporters, sent a message of condolence to the government and people of India, and to the commander of Indian peace-keeping force in Mogadishu, following the slaying of seven Indian soldiers by bandits at [name indistinct] village on 22 August 1994.

The SNA chairman said that not only was the relationship with the Indian peacekeeping force of United Nations Operation in Somalia [UNOSOM-2] excellent but good cooperation existed between the SNA and the Indian peacekeepers. Mr. Aidid added that SNA supporters were indicative of the good relationship existing between the two sides. [passage omitted] The chairman of USC and SNA has appointed a committee to investigate those responsible for the slaying of the Indian troops. [passage omitted]

Ali Mahdi Sends Condolence Message to Butrus-Ghali

EA2308202394 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Ali Mahdi Mohamed, the president of the Republic of Somalia, today sent a message of condolence to Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the secretary general of the United Nations, following the death of seven Indian soldiers working with the UN Operation in Somalia [UNOSOM]. The president stated in his message: Please convey my condolences to the Indian Government and the families of those either killed or injured by these irresponsible elements, whose intention is to hasten the evacuation of UN Forces from Somalia, so as to plunge the country once again into the insecurity that existed before the arrival of UNOSOM and into a major civil war. It is not necessary for me to say that this well-prepared attack was carried out by those opposed to the [word indistinct] politics of the country, who want to undermine the peace efforts of the big conference to reconcile hawiye [clan] administered by the leaders of the community. This is something which they have done repeatedly, along with their cohorts. For this reason, I propose that the United Nations and the international community strengthen their efforts to pacify the people. Antidemocratic forces are attempting to undermine these efforts.

The president also said in his message that he was proposing that UNOSOM should try and identify the

bandits and the organizations to which they belonged rather than treating the issue as a general Somali affair.

The president also said in his message that he was suggesting that the operational methods of the UN forces in Somalia should be reviewed so as to enable the troops to defend their lives.

Italian Ship, Crew Reportedly Detained in Bosaso Port

BR2208112694 Rome ANSAMAIL Database in English 1243 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Unattributed report: "Somalia/Italy: Italian Ship, 32 Crew Members Detained"]

[Text] (ANSA) Bari, August 21—An Italian fishing boat and its 32 crew members have been detained since 13 August in the northern Somali port of Bosaso by the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), the ship's owners have announced here.

The 32 crew members are all in good health but are not allowed to leave the ship, which is under armed watch, the managing director of Meridionalpesca, Leopoldo De Giosa, said, adding that an SSDF commission is expected to issue a report Monday [22 August] on alleged infractions made by the vessel.

The SSDF representative in Italy, Yusuf Mohamed "Bari Bari," confirmed that tomorrow the commission will give the captain the results of an inspection carried out of the ship's equipment and cargo.

De Giosa said he has also informed the Foreign Ministry's crisis unit of the situation. He did not mention any request by the SSDF for ransom money but did comment that there appeared to be a conflict within the clan between those who are willing to let the ship go without further delay and those who want to find some justification for holding the ship in order to "save face."

The SSDF is controlled by the clan that controls northeastern Somalia.

Meridionalpesca officials said the company pays the SSDF an annual fee of \$100,000 for the boat's fishing rights and an additional "royalty" consisting of 10 percent of the catch.

Tanzania

Parliament Revokes Resolution on Tanganyika Government

EA2308191394 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 1700 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Parliament today revoked a parliamentary resolution of last year which called for the establishment of Tanganyika government in the Union government. Many MP's supported the motion to revoke the resolution at the end of the debate. [passage omitted]

Four People Shot Dead Near Ndwedwe in Natal*MB2408065394 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0646 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] Durban, Aug 24 SAPA—Four people were shot dead at Mwologohlo near Ndwedwe, north of Durban, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported on Wednesday [24 August] morning.

The hut in which the bodies were left was burnt to the ground. A police helicopter had been called to the scene.

KwaZulu/Natal Premier Says Government 'Dragging Its Feet'*MB2308195294 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 23 Aug 94*

[Text] KwaZulu/Natal Premier Dr. Frank Mdlalose, lashed out at the government today for delaying the assignment of provincial powers. Dr. Mdlalose was speaking at the first full sitting of the KwaZulu/Natal legislature at Ulundi since its inauguration.

[Begin recording] [SABC reporter Renee Heine] Dr. Mdlalose was faced with severe criticism of the so-called slow progress of his government the past few months. Today he congratulated his MEC's [member of executive council] for the successes achieved so far and reported on the various projects in almost all the departments of his government. He accused the central government of dragging its feet on certain provisions of power which will take years to be implemented.

[Mdlalose] It has taken the central government three months to decide that it needs technical committees to propose an appropriate distribution of powers and responsibilities in terms of Section 126 of the constitution. When those technical committees will meet and make those proposals, I have no idea.

[Heine] The attendance of the three ANC members of the executive council was significant. The grounds were laid for reconciliation in the provincial government. Two previous meetings were boycotted by the ANC members because of various differences between the ANC and IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party]. An issue that is far from resolved is the one of the capital for KwaZulu/Natal. Dr. Mdlalose touched on this in his address saying the matter has been blown out of proportion. Even though a referendum is still a far way off, a commission appointed to determine an interim arrangement for Ulundi or Pietermaritzburg is already experiencing problems. If Ulundi was chosen it is said to receive a major financial boost. [end recording]

12 Standing Committees Approved*MB2408073494 Johannesburg SABC CCV Television Network in English 1900 GMT 23 Aug 94*

[Text] The KwaZulu/Natal legislature approved 12 standing committees at its fourth sitting today. The opposition African National Congress was awarded

chairmanship of the important safety and security committee and three other committees. The ruling Inkatha Freedom Party had six committees, the Democratic Party one, and the National Party one.

Today's sitting had its lighter side. There was laughter when MEC [member of executive council] for finance, Mr. Johnny Mhlongo, proposed that ministers be referred to as honorable members rather than comrades.

Mandela Returns From Botswana, Visits Pollsmoor Prison*MB2308152694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1511 GMT 23 Aug 94*

[Text] Cape Town Aug 23 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela made a surprise return on Tuesday [23 August] to Pollsmoor prison in the Cape Peninsula's southern suburb of Tokai where he was kept as a political prisoner for about seven years in the 1980's.

The president, accompanied by Correctional Services Minister Dr. Siphosizwe Mzimela and Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, made a brief inspection of the maximum security section where overcrowding has become a serious problem.

The president was at Pollsmoor between 1982 and 1989 before becoming ill when he was transferred to Victor Verster prison before his release in 1992.

The visit followed a brief morning excursion to Gabarone to confer with Frontline state presidents Quett Masire (Botswana) and Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwe) over the Lesotho constitutional crisis.

Minister Notes Freedom Front Leader Sympathy Toward ANC*MB2308150194 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 22 Aug 94 p 4*

[Text] South Africa has changed so much over the last 100 days that Freedom Front leader General Constand Viljoen shows more sympathy toward ANC members of Parliament than toward Afrikaners in Parliament. This was said by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal in a restaurant in Wellington over the weekend while celebrating the "101st day in the new South Africa."

"What makes it symbolic is that Gen. Viljoen, the slaughterer of Angola, had been threatening war about six months ago. Now he accepts that black people too are full and equal citizens."

The government realizes in turn that, in order to have peace and stability in the country, all elements in government structures have to be included, Mr. Asmal said.

With reference to religious instruction in schools, he said no child can be forced to receive religious tuition. "The fact that there are 87 percent Christians in South Africa,

and that 80 percent of the blacks make up the population, does not mean that everybody must receive religious instruction at school. It is each one's right to make an own decision." Religion is after all a personal matter, he said.

According to Mr. Asmal, it is "totally untrue that blacks were being employed in the civil service at the expense of coloreds.

The government is in the process of transferring the country's wealth and resources to the people, and not to provide employment for specific groups. It is untrue that coloreds were not benefiting from the process of affirmative action, he said.

Minister Modise Introduces Debate on Defense Budget

MB2308152794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1459 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Senate Aug 23 SAPA—South Africa could not hope to achieve an effective defence capability if the defence budget was cut further, Defence Minister Mr. Joe Modise said on Tuesday [23 August].

The National Defence Force [NDF] already had to rely on some outdated equipment systems and these would have to be replaced, he said, introducing debate on the defence vote.

The defence budget had decreased by 40 percent since 1989, with almost 9,000 full-time military personnel retrenched. Expenditure on defence had been reduced from 4.3 percent of GDP in 1989 to 2.7 percent in 1994. As a percentage of state expenditure it had decreased from 15.7 to 7.8 in the same period. It was clear that even modest cuts in the defence budget would have to be absorbed by reducing defence equipment spending.

"If we do not do this, it will mean further retrenchments at a time when we are in the process of integrating statutory and non-statutory forces," Mr. Modise said.

This also implied that South Africa's defence capability would be adversely affected. "We cannot hope to achieve an effective defence capability if the defence budget experiences further cuts."

He recently initiated a thorough review of South Africa's import and export regulations, and measures had been implemented which further underlined South Africa's commitments to control the flow of weapons in this region and elsewhere.

"It is important that we view the defence industry in this country as a national asset. I want to assure this house that the South African defence industry will conduct itself in a responsible and transparent manner. It will be fully accountable to Parliament."

Mr. Modise announced his intention of instituting a full-scale defence review and of publishing a white paper

before the end of the year. This would enable Parliament to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the whole spectrum of defence issues.

South Africa faced no major conventional threat to its security in the short to medium term, but it took between five and seven years to bring a country's military technology and capability to the level needed to meet and counter threats, Mr. Modise said.

There was the real threat of conflict in the region and further afield, and "we cannot assume it will not spill over to South Africa or affect our interests."

"We need to be properly prepared to counter any form of instability that might affect us." The possible long-term effects of international developments on southern Africa also had to be taken in account.

The National Defence Force's assistance to the SA Police Services [SAPS] in combating instability would continue for as long as SAPS was unable to deal with the situation on its own. The defence council was preparing a policy document for him on the role of women in the NDF.

A new post—director of inspections—had been created specially to supervise human resources and women's rights, Mr. Modise said.

South Africa could not hope to achieve socio-economic reconstruction and political democratisation if the region was in turmoil. "We must begin to view the need for peace and security as a collective regional responsibility in which South Africa has an important role to play."

To aid the Reconstruction and Development Programme, a service brigade was being established. It had to be ensured that the navy had the capability to patrol and defend not only in-shore and deep-sea fishing waters, but also South Africa's harbours and under-sea mineral resources.

The real cost of corvettes was about R1.5 billion [rands] spread over eight years, and not R4.6 billion as had been mentioned in the National Assembly.

Truck Drivers Blockade Major Route Into Port Elizabeth

MB2408080094 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0600 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Text] Truck drivers protesting against pay and working conditions have begun a blockade of a third major route. This morning a group of about 100 trucks began blocking the N2 into Port Elizabeth. One lane is being kept open for private vehicles coming into the city. Last night lorries [trucks] began blocking the N1 between Cape Town and Johannesburg at Colesberg in the Northern Cape. Our Bloemfontein news desk reports that at least 150 lorries have joined the blockade.

Motorists travelling south have been redirected via Kimberley at Bloemfontein, and motorists travelling north

have been asked to travel via Steynsburg. Negotiations between striking truck drivers at the Mooi River Toll Plaza, and Labor Minister Tito Mboweni went on almost the whole night. Our Durban news staff reports that agreements were reached on a number of points, but there were still outstanding issues. More than 2,000 trucks have been blocking the N3 between Johannesburg and Durban at Mooi River since Monday.

South African Press Review for 23 Aug

MB2308123494

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Tutu Criticizes 'Gravy Train' Salaries—"Archbishop Desmond Tutu is an articulate man. But his comments expressing disappointment at the ANC-dominated government's failure to halt the gravy train surpass even his high oratorical standards," begins the Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 23 August in a page 16 editorial. The paper prints Tutu remarks that these cabinet and parliament salaries "served as markers for unionised workers. Their attitude, understandably, is that they, the people who helped voted the ANC into power, should be among the beneficiaries of the new order." "These incomes should be seen in the context of a sombre warning on rising government expenditure in the annual economic report of the Reserve Bank. Noting that expenditure now stands at 21.5 percent of GDP, against 13.5 percent in 1980, the bank warns that this spending could become a major impediment to sustained economic growth unless checked."

Mbeki Chastised for Media Statements—"Deputy President Thabo Mbeki is a consummate diplomat," states the 23 August THE STAR in a second editorial on the same page. "Supporters in the ANC, who campaigned for him to be given his position, also credit him with being a leading strategist and a shrewd thinker. It is a great pity therefore that he showed insufficient appreciation of press freedom when he addressed the Cape Town Press Club last week. It is an even greater pity that a man of his stature.... seems to think the media should be sycophantic toward the GNU [government of national unity]." In conclusion, the editorial writes that "we need a free press, not praise-singers, and a deputy president ought to know that."

SOWETAN

AZAPO, BCMA Merger Urged—"The sooner the Azanian People's Organisation [AZAPO] and the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania [BCMA] merge, the sooner they will make their skills available for the good of the country," begins the Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 23 August in a page 8 editorial. "It is important to note that President Nelson Mandela has stressed his intention to invite the leaders of such organisations into the Government of National Unity. It is correct to state that their efforts in the struggle were crucial and must be rewarded" "They might not be

completely satisfied by the outcome of the liberation struggle, but they are brave and intelligent people who should help the present government satisfy the aspirations of our people."

CAPE TIMES

Mandela's 100 Days Speech Viewed—"Perhaps because it was oversold in the advance publicity, President Mandela's address to Parliament yesterday was almost an anti-climax, being somewhat short on detail and lacking the headline-catching announcements so dear to previous incumbents of the presidency," writes the Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 19 August in a page 6 editorial. The paper concedes, however, that "it was predictable, though, that the speech could not include overmuch detail on particular projects. The planning of major undertakings of the kind envisaged is not the work of a day or a week." The editorial concludes that "in any event, the time for talking is over. It is time to get to work."

CITY PRESS

Action Urged Against Police Killers—"The 'brutal and senseless killings' of policemen 'cannot be allowed to continue and we cannot overemphasise the need for the authorities to do something drastic to end this carnage. The killing of police is just one manifestation of the general lawlessness sweeping all corners of this country.'" "It is for this reason that we appeal to President Nelson Mandela and Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi to bring into operation immediate measures that will end the slaughter of the police." "We believe the government has been pussy-footing around this issue for too long. It is about time that their promises of stern action against criminal elements are turned into reality." "Mandela and Mufamadi must declare war (by actions and not words) against criminals and police killers. It is not enough to claim that they inherited these problems or that they are still new in office."

ILANGA

Murder of Policemen Called "Deplorable"—Durban ILANGA in Zulu on 18-20 August in a page 4 editorial says: "The killing of any blameless person is a deplorable act of blatant criminality. These continued attacks on policemen are distressing and should be stopped by whatever means necessary. Statistics show that 260 police were murdered last year, and indications are that this senseless murder of both policemen and policewomen could rise to 300. Though it is encouraging to hear that the government is thinking of stiffer penalties for police killers, certain organizations must admit their primary role in this carnage," and "if this campaign has now stopped under the new government, they should openly declare: we are calling a halt to this, so let the killing of police now cease. This way those that had been instructed to kill policemen will know it is time to stop." "The government must also take urgent steps to protect the police force, institute an insurance policy contributed to by the employer, and additionally give them danger pay because of the dangerous work they do for the country."

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Angola

Ambassador to U.S. Says UN Impatient, Could Apply Sanctions

MB2408071994 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Text] Jose Patricio, the Angolan ambassador to the United States, has said that the UN Security Council is increasingly impatient about the irresponsible behavior of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] concerning the Angolan peace talks. Ambassador Jose Patricio also expressed the belief that this time the UN Security Council will not tolerate such behavior and will embark on vigorous action.

[Begin Patricio recording] What is happening is that the UN Security Council is increasingly impatient about the fact that UNITA is so reluctant to assume a responsible stand concerning the Angolan peace process. Given the UN Security Council's impatience, indications are that now that the latest deadline has expired it will not hesitate any more, it will not make any more concessions, and it will act more vigorously concerning UNITA. Such a stand should signal additional sanctions against UNITA. [end recording]

UNITA Radio Commentary Discusses U.S. Policy on Angola

MB2308121694 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Station commentary: "Inconsistencies of a Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The international community, particularly the U.S. Government should look into the Angolan problem objectively and not vaguely. To correctly assess the reasons the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT] Creoles are opposed to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]—the legitimate upholder of the genuine sons of Angola and the largest opposition party—it is necessary to be independent of both. Moreover, Angola should not be merely regarded as an oil well and an easy prey for economic lobbies. [preceding word in English]

Political differences between the MPLA-PT and UNITA date back to the days when the two were formed and the ideals espoused by both have been inherited from past generations. The MPLA was founded by Creoles who never identified with the genuine sons of Angola whose descendants form part and parcel of UNITA. Yet, UNITA believes that it is possible to live in reconciliation and peace. Reconciliation ought to be genuine, but not vague.

For that reason, the ongoing Lusaka talks, which are aimed at achieving peace and true national reconciliation, ought to be far-reaching and honest, and conducted in good faith, regardless of the time they may take so as to prevent a repetition of past mistakes. No one better than Angolans themselves are in a position to evaluate the need for peace and genuine reconciliation in Angola because they are the ones who suffer the effects of this atrocious war ravaging the country.

The plight of Angolans does not cause foreigners to suffer physically or morally. They only die as mercenaries in the service of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] for a few dollars paid by enterprises like Chevron, (Odebras), Elf-Aquitaine, Anglo American, and Executive Outcomes. There is nothing to be gained from statements like the ones made by U.S. Government officials, namely Ambassador Edmund DeJarnette, President Clinton's message to Congress in which he said UNITA is an extraordinary and unusual threat to U.S. foreign policy, and more recently the letter sent by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State George Moose to the UNITA leadership in which he made further threats and demands so that we accept the mediator's proposals at the Lusaka talks. The UNITA leadership has time and again stated that the government of Huambo Province is nonnegotiable. The U.S. Government's statements do nothing to help find an agreement in Lusaka. In fact they are harmful because they make the MPLA-PT more arrogant in its old quest for a military solution to the Angolan problem.

Recent international facts showed the present U.S. Government that only talks and not military force and arrogance can lead to understanding and peace. The nuclear problem in the DPRK is being settled through negotiations. When Bill Clinton threatened the DPRK Government with sanctions, the latter immediately said it would go to war if sanctions were applied. The Bosnian problem has been dragging on with no solution in sight because the U.S. Government has not been following a correct and consistent policy toward the situation in the former SFRY.

UNITA is for peace and dialogue. UNITA is peaceful, though not pacifist.

In Somalia, General Farah Aydid has resisted and is still resisting the use of force although the government of the world superpower—the United States—had done its best to annihilate him until President Bill Clinton ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Like the Americans, who shouted America for the Americans during their war of independence we, the genuine sons of Angola strongly shout: Angola for the Angolans. Reason is on our side. We [repeated three times] are the ones who have a say in our land.

Long live Angola!

With UNITA and President Savimbi we will win!

Botswana

Summit on Lesotho Crisis in Session in Gaborone

MB2308120094 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Talks between the heads of state of Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa on the constitutional crisis in Lesotho began in Gaborone about an hour ago. The three leaders, President Masire, President Robert Mugabe, and President Nelson Mandela are meeting behind closed doors and a spokesman for Mr. Mandela told reporters that a media conference will be held after the talks.

Reports say that a two-member ministerial delegation of the Lesotho Council of Ministers is on its way to Gaborone to deliver a special message from the king.

Meanwhile, workers are still striking in Lesotho in protest against King Letsie III's action against the government. A spokesman for a crisis committee has called on workers to return to work tomorrow to give the king the opportunity to reconsider his action. He said that if the government is not reinstated protest action will continue. Five people have been killed in clashes between security forces and protesters.

Lesotho

Mandela on Reinstatement of Lesotho's Mokhehle Government

MB2308165494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1628 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Cape Town Aug 23 SAPA—The elected government of Lesotho Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle had to be reinstated, President Nelson Mandela said on Tuesday [23 August]. He was speaking at a media conference at Pollsmoor Prison after flying back from a meeting in Gaborone with Frontline leaders Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Quett Masire of Botswana.

Mr. Mandela said the King Letsie III's action in deposing Mr. Mokhehle was unconstitutional "and we find it unacceptable that he should have taken that step." Mr. Mandela will meet King Letsie and Mr Mokhehle in Pretoria on Thursday.

PAC To Support Mandela Initiatives To End Lesotho Crisis

MB2308154594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1523 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Cape Town August 23 SAPA—The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] on Tuesday called on Lesotho's King Letsie III to reinstate the democratically-elected government of Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle or face pressure from Africa and the international community.

At a press conference, PAC President Clarence Makwetu said he had assured President Nelson Mandela of the PAC's support for initiatives to end the political crisis in the mountain kingdom.

President Mandela travelled to Gaborone on Tuesday [23 August] to consult with Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe and Botswana's President Quett Masire.

Mr. Makwetu said the PAC also supported mediation attempts by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and believed that military intervention should be a last resort. An economic blockade of the land-locked state by South Africa would be "premature," he said, but this option should be pursued "if it is the only method to bring about sanity."

South Africa, its neighbouring states, Africa and the international community should bring pressure to bear on King Letsie III if he refused to reinstate the Mokhehle government. "A clear message must be sent to the king that Africa,

its people and the entire community of nations will no longer tolerate unconstitutional forms of changing governments.

"King Letsie III must be told in no uncertain terms that the lives of Basotho people will not be sacrificed on the altar of his own ambitions."

New Foreign Minister: Mokhehle Government 'In Tatters'

MB2408084294 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0822 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Text] Maseru Aug 24 SAPA—The dissolved government of Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle in Lesotho has been described as feeble, secretive, lawless and about to plunge the country into a civil war or precipitate a military coup, the Botswana Press Association reports.

"King Letsie III did the right thing (in dissolving the government). You can not have a government which, because of its absolute majority in parliament, thinks it has the privilege to violate a country's laws with impunity," newly-appointed foreign minister Mr. Evaristus Sekhonyana said late on Tuesday [23 August].

"The king had no choice. He was containing an illegal situation," he told reporters at Gaborone's Sir Seretse Khama Airport before leaving for Lesotho. Mr. Sekhonyana was in Gaborone to give a special note from King Letsie to Botswana's Sir Ketumile Masire, South African President Nelson Mandela and Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

The three leaders met to decide on what action to take against their southern African neighbour. Mr. Sekhonyana said the monarch's move came at a time when Dr. Mokhehle's government was in tatters and would not have lasted four months.

"The government would have fallen flat on its face and we were either going to have a military coup or a civil war. It was an imperative decision which had to be taken," he maintained.

The death of Dr. Mokhehle's government, he claimed, was a letter discovered last month in which the government requested a peace-keeping force from Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to quell an internal dispute in the Army.

Mr. Sekhonyana said there was nothing wrong in requesting foreign intervention but said the government's request was made without informing parliament or the king, as head of state. When confronted with the letter Dr. Mokhehle said he had forgotten to inform the king and parliament, Mr. Sekhonyana said.

"He lied to parliament and the nation. The king has the right to be informed on all matters of state. What Dr. Mokhehle did was treason and a crime."

Mr. Sekhonyana denied manipulating the monarchy for his own political ambitions. He said the decision by the United States and Britain to suspend aid to Lesotho or talk that

South Africa might punish the king by closing its borders with Lesotho would not help resolve the country's political crisis.

"You can stop aid, you can do all sorts of things, but a problem will not be solved so long as it is endemic. Only diplomacy can help solve it, not mechanical measures that people are talking about."

King Letsie, Dr. Mokhehle and the three southern African leaders will meet in Pretoria on Thursday in an attempt to resolve the crisis.

Military Intervention 'Not Considered' at Talks on Lesotho

MB2308170194 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Excerpts] King Letsie and Premier Ntso Mokhehle are to meet the presidents of South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Botswana in Pretoria on Thursday [25 August] to discuss the constitutional crisis in Lesotho. [passage omitted]

The South African director of foreign affairs, Mr. Rusty Evans, said after today's meeting between the three leaders in Gaborone, that they had expressed concern about the violence in Lesotho spreading, however, the possibility of military intervention had not been considered at the meeting.

Radio Lesotho on Presidents Meeting in Botswana

MB2308171794 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The presidents of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe held an emergency meeting in Gaborone, Botswana today on the present situation in Lesotho. Reports from Gaborone say the foreign minister of Zimbabwe, Mr. Nathan Shamuyarira, told a press conference after the meeting that the situation in Lesotho posed a threat to the stability of the region. It is reported that the three presidents will hold further consultations on the Lesotho situation in Pretoria on Thursday [25 August] this week.

A delegation of two Lesotho ministers, the honorable minister of foreign affairs, Morena Retselisitsoe Sekhonyana, and the honorable minister of information and broadcasting, Mrs. Mamello Morrison, flew to Gaborone this morning to deliver a special message to the three presidents from his majesty, King Letsie III. The two ministers and President Mandela of South Africa, and President Mugabe of Zimbabwe returned to their respective countries at the end of the summit.

Two-Day Work Stayaway Provisionally Suspended

MB2308175194 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The national steering committee of Non-Governmental Organizations in the current crisis resolved at a meeting in Maseru today that the two-day work stoppage be provisionally suspended and ends today. Making the announcement at the press conference in Maseru today, the president of the Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organizations, Mr. (Suwayi) Santos, said all people were

requested to go back to work tomorrow and resume their normal duties. Mr. Santos said the stayaway was suspended on several conditions, which would be presented to His Majesty King Letsie III tomorrow. Asked what would happen if these conditions were not all acceptable to His Majesty, Mr. Santos said they must be seen as a package. Mr. Santos said one of the conditions is that the steering committee sought an undertaking by the king that he urgently restored democracy and constitutional rule in Lesotho by rescinding orders number 1, 2, and 3 of 1994. Mr. Santos said the conditions should be satisfactorily and fully responded to by Thursday next week, failing which mass action and other actions will be resumed.

Mozambique

UN's Ajello: Troop Demobilization Completed 31 Aug

MB2308135094 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] UN secretary general representative Aldo Ajello says the demobilization of government and Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] troops will be completed by 31 August. He told newsmen today that there are only 9,226 government and Renamo soldiers still to be demobilized. These include troops that had to leave assembly points during the demobilization process to be admitted to hospitals. Aldo Ajello disclosed that 67,150 men have already been demobilized, of which 50,000 are government soldiers, and 16,559 Renamo's. Ajello added that demobilization is no longer a political problem, but a technical issue that will be dealt with by the end of August.

He said 12 assembly points have already been closed. The Cease-Fire Commission will tomorrow send teams to every province to monitor the closure of assembly points and to see whether war materiel is no longer at such points. A total of 49 assembly points were opened when troops began to be demobilized on 30 November 1993.

Ajello added that 84 percent of paramilitary forces have been disbanded and their weapons collected. Turning to the question of former Military Household soldiers currently involved in a dispute with the government and threatening to use force, Aldo Ajello said the UN Operations in Mozambique will only assist them in their reintegration into civilian life. The soldiers are demanding an indemnity of 1,500 contos for alleged losses incurred during the March riots at Magoanine barracks, the payment of longevity allowances, and to be included in the demobilization plan provided for by the General Peace Accord.

Ajello said the Mozambique Defense Armed Forces [FADM] already has over 7,800 men, and a further 3,706 are scheduled to join them. He said FADM's strength by the time the first multiparty elections are held will be just over 10,000 soldiers.

Aldo Ajello said he is pleased with the relative calm prevailing on the roads linking Maputo to the border towns of Ressano Garcia and Namaacha, noting that this has been

due to strengthened patrols carried out by the UN Civilian Police with the backing of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique.

The UN representative said the first portion of the fund for political parties has already been allocated. This afternoon, Ajello will meet donor countries and political parties to discuss the issue. In an ironic remark, Ajello said it is no longer a question of a sad [triste] fund, but a happy one.

Parliament Approves Extension of Voter Registration

MB2308163594 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The Assembly of the Republic this afternoon approved a proposal by the government introducing alterations to the Electoral Law to permit the extension of the voter registration period. The law comes into force immediately. With contributions that will be made by the participants, the Council of Ministers is expected to introduce changes to the proposal. The approval of the law in these terms was requested by Prime Minister Mario Machungo. There is the possibility of electoral officers being able to vote in any post, as well as patients voting in the hospitals. It has also been proposed that the National Elections Commission should have the right to prolong the elections should there be a need.

Deadline Extended to 2 Sep

MB2408065094 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Text] The new 10-day voter registration period is to begin today. At a plenary meeting yesterday, the National Elections Commission, CNE, found that this additional voter registration period will wind up on 2 September. This new voter registration period is aimed principally at allowing demobilized and Mozambique Defense Armed Forces, FADM, soldiers, as well as other eligible voters who have not registered yet to do so.

The CNE also decided to extend to 2 September the deadline for presenting candidates in the presidential and legislative elections.

Further on Registration Extension

MB2308194894 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 23 Aug 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There has been another extension of the period for voters to register for the elections in Mozambique at the end of October. The exercise has been going fairly slowly and the electoral officials have had trouble getting the voters in Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance]-controlled areas. The first deadline expired early last week, but it was

extended until the weekend. On the line to Maputo, Dan Isaacs asked our correspondent Barnaby Philips what has been decided today.

[Begin recording] [Philips] Parliament has approved the changes that will now enable the National Electoral Commission to give another 10 to 15 days more voter registration. Parliament agreed that the actual campaign itself should be 10 days shorter and so, the National Electoral Commission is expected to announce now another 10 to 15 days more of voter registration.

[Isaacs] Now, they have been having all sorts of problems getting everybody registered in the time they have had available already. Will this be enough time to get everybody in the country registered?

[Philips] No, it obviously won't be enough time, but I think it is more a gesture of intent. The pressure was quite strong from all the political parties, and particularly Renamo. The pressure was also strong from the Western countries who are funding the peace process and from the United Nations, and what they want, they obviously accept that for everybody to be registered is an impossibility. What they want is a situation where the best possible effort has been made [passage indistinct] impossible have registered so that no political party can call these elections unfair. It is a gesture in that direction.

[Isaacs] Now, the elections themselves are due at the end of October. With all this squeezing up of the election timetable to try and get the registration of voters in, is that causing any problems at all?

[Philips] No, the election dates itself, of 27 October and 28 October, those aren't under any threat yet. In fact, what was being discussed this afternoon in the parliament was to even allow the National Electoral Commission to be able to call more voting days after the 28 October in case anyone hasn't had the opportunity to vote yet, if things didn't go well during the actual voting itself, which in view of all the problems Mozambique has had, registering is probably a wise precaution.

[Isaacs] Now, you have been travelling around the country in the last few days, last few weeks, seeing people and talking to people about the elections. Are people aware what the choices are, what is going to happen. Are they aware what the process is?

[Philips] I think it is fair to say that in rural areas there is a great deal of ignorance and a great deal of confusion. Certainly, I was travelling through Renamo-controlled areas in the center of the country over the weekend, and it would be fair to say that people don't really have a fair conception, even those who have been able to register, of why they are registering, let alone the democratic choices that will be open to them. In the cities, in Maputo, there was obviously a much greater understanding of what this is all about. But, no, it won't be an election that will take place under ideal conditions where everybody is making a rational and free choice. [end recording]

Guinea

President Conte Reshuffles Cabinet

AB2408074994 Paris AFP in English 0449 GMT
24 Aug 94

[Text] Conakry, August 23 (AFP)—The following is the composition of the new Guinean government following Tuesday's [23 August] reshuffle. Still to be filled are the portfolios for defense and economic control, along with the high commissioners for information and tourism.

Foreign Affairs: Kozo Zomanigui (new)

Interior: Alseny Rene Gomez (unchanged)

Justice: Salifou Sylla (unchanged)

Planning and Cooperation: Michekl Kamano (new)

Finance: El Hadj Camara (new)

Mines and Geology: Facinet Fofana (new)

Energy and Environment: Dorank Assifat Diasseny (former youth minister)

Urban Affairs and Housing: Lt. Col. Jean Traore (new)

Health: Kandjoura Drame (new)

Administrative Reform: Germain Dualamu (new)

Youth, Arts and Sports: Dakoun Toumany Sako (former natural resources minister)

Secondary Education: Aicha Bah (unchanged)

Higher Education, Scientific Research: Alioune Banire Diallo (new)

Public Works: Cellou Dalen Diallo (new)

Trade and Industry: Seku Konate (new)

Transport: Ibrahima Sylla (former foreign minister)

Agriculture: Makale Camara (former minister for women and children)

Fishing: Mamadi Diare (new)

Labor and Social Affairs: Josephine Guilavo (new)

Childhood: Yvonne Conde (new)

Post et Telecommunications: Emmanuel Gnan (new)

Nigeria

Court Suspends Government Order Dissolving Union Leadership

AB2308172194 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT
23 Aug 94

[Text] Lagos, Aug. 23 (AFP)—The Nigerian Federal High Court Tuesday [23 August] suspended for a week a government order dissolving the leadership of the main striking oil union, judicial officials said.

The military government in Nigeria last week announced it was dissolving the leadership of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) and replacing it with a military administrator.

The union has been leading an eight-week-old strike calling for the military to hand over to a broad based civilian government.

Restrains Appointees From Assuming Duties

AB2408114694 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Excerpt] A judge of the Federal High Court in Nigeria, Justice Mamman Kolo, has ordered the newly appointed sole administrator and secretary to the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, NUPENG, not to assume duties on Thursday [25 August] as scheduled until a suit challenging the legality of their appointment has been determined. Ruling yesterday in Lagos on an ex-parte motion filed by the dissolved executive of the union, Mr. Justice Kolo restrained the government appointees from taking control of the affairs of the union until Wednesday next week [31 August] when the motion on notice would have been held.

The counsel to the applicant, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, also argued that NUPENG was a registered trade union governed by defined rules and regulations and not a government agency. Chief Gani Fawehinmi said the union executives were elected at the National Convention of the union and could only be dissolved by its members. The case has been adjourned to August 31.

In another ex-parte motion challenging the arrest and detention of NUPENG's former secretary general, Chief Frank Kokori, the high court judge asked the Nigerian Government to allow Chief Kokori access to medical attention in view of his state of health. The judge granted the applicant leave to enforce his fundamental human rights. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Says Refineries Ready for Operations

AB2308170594 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The striking workers in the petroleum industry have been returning to duty following the Federal Government's directive. The minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Chief Don Etiebet, stated this yesterday in Lagos, while addressing newsmen after a meeting with top officials of the NNPC [Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation], as well as major and independent oil marketers. Energy correspondent Alex Udoh reports:

[Begin Udoh recording] Chief Etiebet said that he was satisfied with the response by the workers. The minister stated that concerted efforts were being made to ensure that workers returning to depots were not intimidated or harassed by any individual or group. [passage omitted]

Chief Etiebet also said that power supply to the two refineries in Port Harcourt had been restored. As a result, normal operations had started at the refineries. The minister gave an assurance that by next week, all petrol stations in the country would be supplied with sufficient petroleum products. Chief Etiebet said that the meeting was convened to work out (?effective) modalities for efficient and steady supply of the products. On the state of the nation's four refineries, the minister said that they were in form and ready for normal operations. He added that the turn round maintenance at the Warri and Kaduna refineries had been completed, and gave assurance that they would soon resume operations. Chief Etiebet commended NNPC officials who, he said, did not take part in the industrial action, and urged them to continue in the same (?spirit). [end recording]

Fuel Distribution Resumes at Depots

AB2308121294 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The Federal Government is taking steps to ensure that the recent strike by oil workers in Nigeria does not bring hardships to Nigerians. Chief Don Etiebet, Nigeria's minister of petroleum and mineral resources, says government's directive to the striking workers to resume work is one of the measures aimed at improving petrol distribution in the country. In an interview with the Voice of Nigeria correspondent, Omar Aminu, the petroleum and mineral resources minister said that work had resumed in all fuel depots in Nigeria.

[Begin Etiebet recording] The latest situation in respect to the fuel situation in the country, I would say a lot depots have started to load. You remember that last week when the PENGASSAN [Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria] wing of NNPC [Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation] decided to join in the whole strike, some of the depots were left unattended and petroleum products were not distributed from those depots, particularly Mosinme, Jigo, and Ibadan. As of today, I am pleased to tell you that Ibadan has started to load since last Friday [19 August], Mosinme is loading and Jigo is loading. And so we expect to have a lot of the backlog of traffic queues at the filling stations reduced by the middle of this week. [end recording]

Chief Don Etiebet also commented on the level of crude oil production by the oil-producing companies in Nigeria:

[Begin Etiebet recording] There have been (?oil) producers suffering from production loss—SHELL, AGIP, and ELF. This is due to the fact that their production wells have been shut down not because they are not able to produce, but because the workers have been harassed both by some of their union members and also by the community members where these fields are located. As a result of NADECO [National Democratic Coalition] sending letters to these communities to incite them against the oil workers. So they threaten them and some of them left the field and you know this is a very dangerous area and you don't have enough manpower, you have to shut the well down. So as of now

some fields are still shut down and we still have production loss to SHELL, EFL, and AGIP. [end recording]

Shell International Closes Terminal in East of Country

AB2308172594 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Lagos, Aug 23 (AFP)—Shell International closed its Forcados terminal in eastern Nigeria over the weekend, company spokesman Folarin Williams told AFP on Tuesday [23 August].

It generally exports 500,000 barrels of crude a day from that terminal, he said, which was closed after unidentified persons caused "damage" to the Forcados installations.

Williams said he could not give any details about the situation at the terminal on Tuesday because of "poor communications" with the region in the eastern part of the country.

Normally, Shell International turns out 900,000 barrels a day in Nigeria, half the country's output.

In early August, the company had to suspend "until further notice" its exports of Bonny Medium crude after the sabotage of a valve in an important pipeline. It said then the incident was related to the oil workers' strike, which continues.

Army Chiefs' Dismissal; Demonstrations in North Viewed

AB2308140694 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 23 Aug 94

[By Ade Obisesan]

[Excerpts] Lagos, 23 Aug (AFP)—General Sani Abacha has moved to firm up Nigeria's military-dominated regime, confronted with striking workers and pro-democracy activists seeking a return to democratic civilian rule. Abacha late Monday [22 August] sacked both the Army and Navy chiefs, both members of the Provisional Ruling Council he installed in November. Observers on Tuesday said further changes could be imminent.

Some Lagos bank staff, who have been on strike for more than a month, resumed work Tuesday to cater for cash-strapped customers, saying that their decision to do so was made before the junta Monday threatened to revoke the licences of banks that failed to operate on Wednesday. However, petroleum and gas workers continued a strike that is in its eighth week and has crippled the economy of oil-rich Nigeria, particularly in the south of the country. They want the junta to hand over power to Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of presidential elections held last year before the military annulled the poll, alleging irregularities. [passage omitted]

In Abacha's reshuffle, General Chris Mohammed Ali lost his position of chief of army staff to his second in command, Brigadier-General Alwali Kazir, commandant of the first

mechanised division in Kaduna and former military governor of the central Kwara state.

The former naval chief, Rear-Admiral Allison Madueke, the only member of the 11-man ruling council from the Ibo ethnic group, predominant in the east, was also replaced by his junior, Mike Okhai Ahigbe, a former military governor of Lagos State. Before Abiola was arrested and charged with treason in June for declaring himself head of state, he several times publicly singled out the Army chief for his stand in defence of democracy. Madueke, a former state military governor, has held several key military appointments under the eight-year regime of General Ibrahim Babangida who left office in August last year.

Ibo activists have complained of being excluded from the mainstream of Nigerian politics since the Biafra war of 1967-70, in which an eastern secessionist bid was crushed. If Nigerian military practice is upheld, observers said the two replaced officers may have been retired from the service, but their fate has not been officially confirmed.

Meanwhile Tuesday, the Federal High Court in Lagos began hearing cases filed by the two striking oil unions to challenge as "illegal" Abacha's move last week to dissolve and replace their national executives and arrest several pro-democracy activists. Supporters of the detainees gathered clutching placards with which they hope to stage a demonstration around the court premises, witnesses said.

Press reports meanwhile said Tuesday that the military government had drawn the support of "several thousand people" who demonstrated at Kano and Kaduna, the main towns of the conservative north, on Monday. The pro-government DAILY TIMES said that in Kaduna they carried placards hostile to foreign media and to Britain and the United States, which have exercised pressure on the junta.

In a statement published Tuesday in two independent newspapers, one of the unions, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association (PENGASSAN) urged retired oil industry workers to shun a plan by government to employ them to take over jobs in a bid to "break our patriotic strike."

The statement, signed by the general secretary of the dissolved national executive of the oil union, Milton Dabibi, said that the strike was in the interest of the oil sector, its workers and Nigeria.

In another development, a new evening daily, the P.M. NEWS, was launched on Monday by the press group that runs the magazines TEMPO and THE NEWS, both known for their attacks on the military. Its first issue began a campaign in support of Abiola, calling for a struggle against the forces of "neo-fascist terror." The Muslim millionaire businessman from the Yoruba southwest will spend his 57th birthday in jail on Wednesday, the paper said.

Information Minister on Dismissals

AB2408103094 London BBC World Service in English
0600 GMT 24 Aug 94

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] The political situation in Nigeria has taken yet another turn. Yesterday, we reported a government reshuffle and today there has been a development in another area: the country's High Court. Last week's order issued by General Sani Abacha's military government sacking the leadership of the main oil industry union, NUPENG [National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers], and replacing it with an administrator has been provisionally suspended by the Federal High Court in Lagos. The court ruled that the union leadership should retain its functions until the case is heard next week. Emily Casreel called up the Nigerian information minister, Dr. Jerry Gana in Lagos, and asked him how the government would respond to the challenge of the court.

[Begin recording] [Gana] Well, is it a challenge? Courts are supposed to adjudicate on cases that come before them and we have told the world, and this is a very clear illustration that we believe in the rule of law. We respect the court process. If a judge has ruled on a matter like this, it is now for the attorney general to interpret the meaning of this judgment to the government.

[Casreel] So if you say the courts are free, it means that the head of the petrol workers' unions, both NUPENG and PENGASSAN [Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria], are in fact going to continue working in their jobs, rather than being sacked as the head of state, Sani Abacha, indicated in his address last week.

[Gana] There are higher courts in the land, and I am sure the attorney general may want to take it up and challenge the ruling of this court, and until that appeal is heard, certainly, the announcement by the head of state will stand.

[Casreel] What you are saying seems slightly contradictory, sir, in that if the courts genuinely are free and the court has made a decision, then surely the decision of the court should stand until it is challenged.

[Gana] Well, I am saying that it is going to be challenged immediately, I am sure. There is no doubt at all.

[Casreel] Let me turn now to the question of the dismissal of the chief of Army and the chief of Navy. Now, one thing that you.... [pauses] In the past, you have denied that there has been splits within the government and within the Army, and the ruling forces of Nigeria, with regard to policy. Now, these dismissals really seem the clearest indication yet that such splits genuinely exist.

[Gana] I don't think it necessarily means a split in government. I think it means that one or two decisions have been taken, as the head of state indicated in his broadcast, that would be made to be able to facilitate the processes or form a government. I don't have the details, but reshuffles in government are kind of normal in any situation.

[Casreel] But what is interesting about these reshuffles is that the chief of the Army who was dismissed, Chris Alli, was certainly seen as sympathetic at least to the release of Chief Abiola.

[Gana] I think you are reading too much into it. Definitely, the word dismissal is not appropriate. I think some appointments have been made, and I don't think it would be correct to also read that those who now, perhaps, have been replaced that they have been sympathetic to the release of Chief Abiola. Most Nigerians don't want anybody to be in detention, really. It became necessary. Government does not enjoy putting Nigerians in detention.

[Casreel] But it certainly does seem that those people who do support 12 June, who do support the release of Abiola, have been phased out of the government as if there is only one real view standing in the government.

[Gana] What of the constitutional conference that is supposed to debate all these matters? Government is going to respect that. I don't think that it would be correct to say that government just wants to have one view in government. Which kind of government would that be? [laughs] I don't think the kind of meaning you are reading into it is that, because that would only lead our nation to give the impression that government itself is divided against itself. That impression, I think, is very dangerous for Nigeria, and that is not the case.

[Casreel] There are some rumors that there is going to be a cabinet reshuffle. Can you enlighten me on this?

[Gana] Well, the head of state, when he gave the address to the nation the other day, promised that there would be rejuvenation. I think that is the word he used. In other words bringing in some people into government. Maybe, some others might be dropped. That indication has been given, and we are just waiting for the announcement. [end recording]

Further Details

AB2308181294 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT
23 Aug 94

[By Jacques Pinto]

[Text] Lagos, Aug 23 (AFP)—A Nigerian court Tuesday [23 August] suspended a government order dissolving the leadership of a striking oil union, a day after the military ruler tightened his grip on power by sacking his Army and Navy defence chiefs.

The Federal High Court in Lagos said it would not consider the order against the oil workers' union again until 31 August.

The government, led by General Sani Abacha, is resisting union and pro-democracy groups' demands for it to relinquish power and install jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola as president.

Abiola is widely believed to have won the Nigerian presidential election held in June last year. The military annulled the results on grounds of fraud.

Oil and gas workers have been the most active in attempts to force the military to hand over the power seized in a coup last November to Abiola.

However, the official NAN News Agency reported Tuesday that several oil depots shut by the strike had reopened and that 40 oil tankers had been brought in to take the oil stored in the depots and distribute it to gas stations round the city.

Army teams and oil and electricity workers have worked around the clock since the weekend to get the stopped Ejigbo oil depot, the largest in the southern region, working again, the state-run agency said.

"Activities are far from returned to normal, there are very few people on the ground," an oil industry employee who requested anonymity told AFP.

"The Port Harcourt refinery, one of the largest in the country, is still shut and has suffered damage caused by the sudden shutdown by the strikers."

In London, oil market specialists said Tuesday expectations that the strike would end shortly had pushed the price of oil to a four month low under 16 dollars a barrel.

At the same time, banks reported that some Lagos bank staff, who went on strike a month ago, decided Tuesday to return to work after the government threatened Monday to revoke the licences of banks that failed to re-open to customers by Wednesday morning.

With the military hardening its stance, the two main oil unions appealed through adverts in the national press Tuesday to retired oil workers to shun government demands that they break the strike.

At the same time, the pro-government DAILY TIMES carried a report of a gathering of thousands of pro-government supporters in Kano and Kaduna in the mainly-Moslem north attacking British and US pressure on Abacha to hand over to democratic powers.

Abacha, who led the military coup in November, has shown every sign recently of tightening his control on power, sacking the army and navy chiefs Monday and replacing them with his own favourites.

General Chris Mohamed Ali, who was sacked as Army chief of staff, was singled out for praise by opposition leader Abiola several times earlier this year for his pro-democracy views.

Rear-Admiral Allison Madueke, dismissed from his post as naval chief of staff Monday, was the only member of the 11-man ruling military council from the Ibo ethnic group predominant in eastern Nigeria and long excluded from mainstream Nigerian politics.

In their place, Abacha appointed two personal favourites, Brigadier-General Alwali Kazir to army chief of staff and Admiral Mike Okhai Ahigbe to Navy chief of staff.

The trial of Abiola on treason charges after he declared himself president on the day before the first anniversary of his annulled election, is expected to resume early last week when a new judge is found after the last judge resigned.

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Abiola, a southern-based Moslem millionaire businessman who made his fortune from media interests, will spend his 57th birthday in jail Wednesday.

Court Orders Government To Allow Access to NUPENG Leader

*AB2308174594 Lagos NAN in English 1626 GMT
23 Aug 94*

[Text] Lagos, Aug. (NAN) [dateline as received]—A judge of the Federal High Court, Mr. Justice Mamman Kolo, today in Lagos, ordered the federal government to allow the detained former secretary general of NUPENG [National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers], Chief Frank Kokori, access to medical attention in view of his state of health, the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports. Ruling in an ex-parte motion filed by Chief Gani Fawehinmi challenging the arrest and detention of Chief Kokori, the judge held that the detainee should also be allowed access to his personal doctor. The judge granted the applicant leave to enforce his fundamental human rights and ruled that all the court processes concerning the order should be served on the federal attorney general, Dr. Olu Onagoruwa. Chief Fawehinmi had told the court that attempts made by Chief Kokori's wife to [words indistinct] his drug, were abortive, because the wife was turned back by SSS [State Security Service] operatives. He said that the circumstance surrounding the arrest of Chief Kokori was "pathetic" in the sense that, the agents of the respondents lured [words indistinct] the pretext that he was being wanted by Chief Olusegun Osoba. He argued that the applicant had not committed any offence and prayed the court to order his release or production in court.

Abiola Sues Top Officials Over Treason Trial

*AB2308195094 Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT
23 Aug 94*

[Text] Lagos, Aug 23 (AFP)—The jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola on Tuesday [23 August] sued the chief judge of the federal high court for his continued trial on treason charges at the specially created federal high court in Abuja.

The action, filed on Abiola's behalf by Femi Falana, president of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, named Chief Judge Batunde Belgore and Federal Attorney-General Olu Onagoruwa.

The suit said the trial of Abiola in Abuja is illegal, unconstitutional, null and void, since the offences for which he was charged were allegedly committed in Lagos.

The action cited Section 45 of the Federal High Court Act, which states that "an offence shall be tried by a court exercising jurisdiction in the area or place where the offence was committed."

The suit also asked the court to issue an injunction restraining the respondents from proceeding or continuing with the hearing or trial of Abiola in Abuja or anywhere in the country other than in Lagos.

Justice Abdullahi Mustapha, ruled in the federal high court in Abuja last week that the Abuja court, specially set up to try Abiola, had jurisdiction to continue with the trial, shortly before resigning from the case on the grounds that he was not considered impartial by the defence.

The move disappointed the defence who had been expecting the court to release Abiola and instead saw the trial adjourned until 29 August when a new judge should have been appointed.

Abiola, the presumed winner of presidential elections held in June 1993, is on trial for treason.

The military refused to publish the results of the elections, despite claims by international observers that they were free and fair, and claimed fraud.

On the day before the anniversary of the elections, Abiola declared the military regime illegitimate and pronounced himself president and head of the Armed Forces.

Abuja, Enugu University Unions Refuse To Join Strike

*AB2408104694 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in
English 0600 GMT 24 Aug 94*

[Text] The University of Abuja branch of Academic Staff Union of Universities [ASUU] has dissociated itself from the industrial action called by the national executive council of the union. A statement issued by the chairman, Dr. I. Okaji, and the secretary, Mr. O. Alanano, described the strike as politically oriented. The [words indistinct] the ultimatum given to the Federal Government by ASUU National Executive Council without first engaging in dialogue with the government as a peaceful means of solving the crisis facing the universities in the country. It observed that the ASUU national leadership had become extremely involved in the nation's politics and was no longer adopting a peaceful dialogue approach to the problems of members of the union.

The University of Abuja, ASUU, said by taking the present stand, the national executive did not take into consideration the worsening plight of the masses as a result of the strike action by (?its members). It has also failed to recognize that frequent interruption of academic work in the universities had caused untold hardship and psychological stress on the members. The branch said ASUU's political involvement had transformed it into excessive unionism detrimental to the corporate existence and stability of the country. While expressing lack of confidence in the National ASUU Executive, the University of Abuja branch called on all patriotic and committed bodies and unions in the country to [word indistinct] the ASUU strike.

Also dissociating itself from the strike, the Academic Staff Union of Enugu State University said the national leadership of the union has sold its (?birthright). The executive committee of the (?union) said the attitude of the leadership was affecting the chances of the universities of benefiting from government-approved grants. Already, the Federal Government has deplored the strike action and appealed to the [word indistinct] to come for a dialogue. The minister of state for education and youth development, Alhaji Wada Nas, has [words indistinct] to shun confrontation as a means of resolving the crisis.

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